To the Reviewing Authority,

I hope this message finds you well. I’m contacting you to highlight my interest in a Software Engineering internship position with the Green Bank Observatory (GBO). I recently was readmitted to Marshall University in Huntington, WV to study Computer Information Technology with an emphasis in software application development. Prior to Fall 2019, I had been working as an engineering geologist and hydrogeologist for a small environmental consulting firm.

After having reviewed the permanent and internship postings at GBO, I became specifically interested in the skills required to work there, as well as skills that can be cultivated. I have a fundamental working knowledge of procedural programming with C++, and I would relish an opportunity to be in an environment where I can grow my knowledge base of the language to solve complex problems. I’m not only interested in C++, by the way. I first started learning Python to streamline my geospatial workflow during my time as a geologist using ESRI applications. I would appreciate an opportunity to expand my knowledge in all things programming, and an opportunity with GBO seems like the perfect one.

I’ve also recently taught myself the fundamentals of version control using local Git repositories and storing them remotely with GitHub. It’s been an amazing tool for keeping me out of trouble while developing my latest web application. I’m curious about how I can learn to use these tools for development within a team environment.

I believe my previous background as an earth scientist gives me a great foundation for a position with GBO. My past experience has been critical in the development of my analytical and critical thinking skills. I recognized a need for robust software and data integrity capabilities in my scientific discipline, which is why I chose to pursue a career in software development. A position with GBO would be monumental in achieving what I’ve set out to do. I hope I’ll be considered for an opportunity to learn.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Cayton